Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 MCT-01 /070 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8131

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 4267

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, PINS, DR

SUBJ: HUNGER STRIKE BY FAMILIES OF PRISONERS

- 1. A HUNGER STRIKE, MAINTAINED BY WIVES, MOTHERS AND SISTERS OF SEVERAL JAILED LEFTIST EXTREMISTS, MOVED INTO ITS SIXTEENTH DAY TODAY WITHOUT INDICATIONS THAT EITHER THE STRIKERS OR THE AUTHORITIES WERE PREPARED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. THE STRIKE IS DESIGNED TO FORCE THE GODR TO TRANSFER THE PRISONERS FROM PRISONS NEAR THE HAITIAN BORDER TO LA VICTORIA NEAR THE CAPITAL. STRIKERS ORIGINALLY TOOK UP POSITIONS IN THE MAIN BUILDINGS OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, THEN MOVED TO THE INTERIOR OF A DOWNTOWN CHURCH AND FINALLY TO THE AREA JUST IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH WHEN BOTH CIVIL AND CHURCH AUTHORITIES DENIED THEM THE USE OF THOSE BUILDINGS. THREE OF THE STRIKERS HAVE BEEN REMOVED TO HOSPITALS FOR SHORT PERIODS FOR OBSERVATION AND TREATMENT.
- 2. ALL OF THE PRISONERS ARE SERVING SENTENCES FOR PARTICIPATION IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. AMONG THE BETTER KNOWN ARE PLINIO MATOS MOQUETE, LEADER OF THE MOVIMIENTO DE LA LIBERACION 12 DE ENERO (ML 12E), WHICH IN 1974 KIDNAPPED PAO BARBARA HUTCHINSON TO FORCE HIS RELEASE, JORGE "EL MEN" PUELLO, LEADER OF THE VIOLENCE-PRONE FACTION OF THE MOVIMIENTO POPULAR DOMINICANO (MPD) AND FERNANDO ENARNACION DE LA CONCEPCION AND AUGUSTO ALVAEZ OF THE TRINITARIOS, A GROUP THAT HAS TWO SUCCESSFUL BANK HOLDUPS TO ITS CREDIT. LEFTIST OPPONENTS OF THE GOV'T HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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TRIED TO EXPAND AND EXPLOIT THE STRIKE, BUT WITHOUT APPARENT

ENTHUSIASM. SOME 50 STUDENTS OF THE SANTO DOMINGO UNIVERSITY OCCUPIED THE CHURCH ON AUGUST 31 BUT WERE QUICKLY ARRESTED BY POLICE. A SYMPATHY STRIKE OF 100 PRISONERS IN LA VICTORIA HAS BROADENED THE STRIKE SOMEWHAT.

3. A NUMBER OF CIVIC LEADERS, INCLUDING RAFAEL HERRERA, EDITOR OF LISTIN DIARIO AND MSGR ROQUE ADAMES, BISHOP OF SANTIAGO, HAVE ADOPTED MEDIATION ROLES, BUT THE PRESIDENT HAS LET IT BE KNOWN THAT HE WILL NOT YIELD TO PRESSURE, THAT BEFORE HE RECEIVES A GROUP OF MEDIATORS, THE STRKE MUST BE BROUGHT TO AN END. HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, PRISONERS, TERRORISTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 01 SEP 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Authority: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1976SANTO04267 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D760332-1022 From: SANTO DOMINGO Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197609101/aaaadiup.tel Line Count: 73

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION ARA Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: caphillha

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 13 MAY 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <22 DEC 2004 by cahillha>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: HUNGER STRIKE BY FAMILIES OF PRISONERS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, DR To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006